IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

DAIROKU et al Atty. Ref.: 1035-492; Confirmation No. 8698

Appl. No. 10/764,444 TC/A.U. 1791

Filed: January 27, 2004 Examiner: Monica A. Huson

For: METHOD OF MANUFACTURING WATER-ABSORBING SHAPED BODY

* * * * * * * * * *

January 4, 2010

Mail Stop: AMENDMENTS Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

RESPONSE

Responsive to the Official Action dated September 1, 2009, entry and consideration of the following amendments and remarks are respectfully requested. January 1, 2010 was a holiday. Applicants believe that this Response, filed on the next working day of January 4, 2009 with a one-month extension of time is timely. However, if any fees or extensions are required to consider this response is missing or deficient, Applicants petition for any extensions necessary and authorize the payment of any fees (or any deficiency therein) to be charged to Deposit Account 14-1140 under Order No. ES-1035-492.

The **claims** are presented on pages 2-5.

There are no claim amendments.

Remarks begin on page 6.